

Atty. Dkt. No. 035451-0197 (3736.Palm)
(f/k/a 035451-0188C)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 6, 7, and 13 are being canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 8 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-5, 8-12, 14, and 15 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

In Section 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 12, and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koved et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,363).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite limitations which are not taught, disclosed, or suggested by Koved et al. Any potential rejection is addressed in the following subsection of this reply.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

In Section 6 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Koved et al. in view of Silverstein (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0079143), further in view of Sajna (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,552).

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Koved et al., Silverstein, and Sajna discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the claim limitations of amended claims 1 and 8. What is

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taught in Sajna is that a resilient deformation of a switching member varies the capacitance in an electrically detectable manner. This differs from the purpose of the electronic muscle which when provided with a charge deforms to provide a user with tactile feedback and also may provide a signal to the device when the user deforms the electronic muscle. See Applicants' Specification paragraph [0024]. Applicants respectfully submit that the references do not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of electronic muscle in a tactile feedback context as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 8 and their respective dependent claims are allowable.

* * * * *

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

Alistair K. Chan

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 26371

Telephone: (414) 297-5730

Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

Alistair K. Chan

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 44,603